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REMARKS

Claims 15-27 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Claims 30-32 have been indicated as being allowed. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for that indication.

Applicant would also like to thank the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor for taking the time for a telephone interview on August 9, 2007, wherein the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,799,006 to Mukawa ("the Mukawa '006 patent) and Japanese Patent Application Publication 01-171144 to Okamoto ("the Okamoto publication") was discussed. According to the Examiner, as set forth in the Office Action, the element 11 of the Okamoto publication could be placed on top of element 104 of the Mukawa patent such that both elements would rotate with rotation of the disc.

Claims 15, 17-20, 23, 24, 26 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Mukawa '006 patent in view of the Okamoto publication.

Claim 15 defines a method for processing a compact disc, comprising placing the compact disc on a rotatable hub such that a throughhole of the compact disc receives said hub, engaging the compact disc with a fan device such that the compact disc is biased farther onto said hub, attaching said fan device to said hub and rotating said hub such that the compact disc and said fan device also rotate, and said fan device moves air about the compact disc to thereby carry heat away from the compact disc.

Applicant submits that the above noted subject matter of claim 15 is not obvious over the cited art of record. According to the Office Action and the interview, the Mukawa '006 patent includes "a clamper 104" and it appears that the Office Action states that it is obvious to combine the heat exhaust means 11 of the Okamoto publication with the "clamper 104" of the Mukawa '006 patent. However, the element 104 of the Mukawa '006 patent is a magnetic plate 104 that is "retained by the disc substrate 101a by means of an adhesive or supporting lugs formed by a thermally deforming part of the disc substrate 101a formed e.g. of synthetic resin." Lines 58-61 of column 6 of the Mukawa '006 patent. Therefore, the magnetic plate 104 is not a clamper as set forth in the Office Action, but actually forms part of the compact

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disc. Accordingly, Applicant submits that it is not obvious to combine the references as set forth in the Office Action as it is not obvious to affix a heat exhaust means to a compact disc as set forth in the Office Action. While the element 104 is only discussed in the Office Action with regard to the first embodiment with the Mukawa '006 patent, Applicant notes that the second embodiment of the Mukawa '006 patent also includes an element 104 which is illustrated in Figs. 11-15 and which does not rotate with rotation of the recording disc 101. See lines 58-59 of column 9 of the Mukawa '006 patent. Therefore, any combination of the second embodiment of the Mukawa '006 patent with the Okamoto publication will not have a fan that rotates with rotation of the compact disc. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 15 is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 17-20 depend from claim 15, and since claim 15 defines unobvious patentable subject matter as discussed above, claims 17-20 define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 15 and 17-20 define patentable subject matter and are in condition for allowance.

Claim 23 defines an apparatus for cooling a compact disc comprising a rotatable hub having a first end and a second end, the first end of the hub being configured to accept a compact disc thereon by inserting the first end of the hub into a throughhole of the compact disc, an actuator configured to rotate the rotatable hub and a fan device driven by said actuator and configured to move air about the compact disc, the fan device being configured to move relative to the hub.

Applicant submits that it is not obvious to combine the references as set forth in the Office Action to reject claim 23 as discussed above in regard to claim 15. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 23 is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 24, 26 and 27 depend from claim 23, and since claim 23 defines unobvious patentable subject matter, claims 24, 26 and 27 define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 23, 24, 26 and 27 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 16, 21, 22 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Mukawa '006 patent in view of the Okamoto publication and "Applicants admitted prior art."


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Claims 16, 21 and 22 depend from claim 15, and since claim 15 defines unobvious patentable subject matter as discussed above, claims 16, 21 and 22 define patentable subject matter. Furthermore, in regard to claim 16, the prior art of record does not disclose an attaching step that includes placing a fan device on a hub such that a through hole of the fan device receives the hub with a friction fit. According to the Office Action, Applicant's specification discloses placing a clamping member on a hub such that a through hole of the fan device receives the hub with a friction fit in paragraph 29. However, paragraph 29 states that a compression arm pushes a compact disc, not a fan device, onto a hub such that a through hole of the compact disc receives the hub with an interference fit. Therefore, the prior art cited in the Office Action does not include all of the features of claim 16. Moreover, in regard to claim 21, the prior art of record does not disclose an attaching step that includes using a compression arm to push a fan device onto a hub with a friction fit. As discussed above in regard to claim 16, the prior art of record does not disclose pushing a fan device onto a hub with a friction fit. In regard to claim 25, claim 25 depends from claim 23, and since claim 23 defines unobvious patentable subject matter as discussed above, claim 25 defines patentable subject matter. Furthermore, as discussed above in regard to claims 16 and 21, the prior art of record does not disclose inserting a through hole of a fan device onto a rotatable hub in a friction fit such that the fan device rotates with the rotatable hub. Accordingly, claims 16, 21, 22 and 25 are in condition for allowance.

All pending claims 15-27 and 30-33 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowability is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

October 15, 2007
Date



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